

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claim 17 remains pending, claims 1-16 and 18-28 being canceled in this

Reply to focus prosecution on claim 17.

The Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner and his supervisor for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of January 17, 2007. As a result of the interview, although the Applicants consider that claims 1-16 and 18-28 contain patentable subject matter, claim 17 alone is retained at this time to expedite consideration and allowance of the present application. The Applicants reserve the right to resubmit the subject matter of claims 1-16 and 18-28 in a continuation application.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0254934 (Ho) in view of Kavalam et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0091658 (Kavalam) in view of Wiik et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,260,551 (Wiik). The Applicants respectfully traverse as follows.

During the telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that Ho is cited as disclosing an access control list (ACL) in the environment of protecting computer resources; Wiik is cited as disclosing access interception; and Kavalam is cited as providing the motivation and suggestion to combine the teachings of Ho and Wiik to achieve the invention defined in claim 17. In reply, the Applicants submitted that Kavalam and Ho disclose different types of ACLs such that their combination would simply be redundant and thus not motivational to the person of ordinary skill in the art. The Applicants additionally submitted that Wiik, like Kavalam, provides a "black list" (BL) including prohibited access entries, and thus is redundant to Kavalam. In sum, the Applicants argued that the person of ordinary skill would not find motivation

or advantage in combining Kavalam and Ho or in combining Wiik with Kavalam, and that no one of these references suggests to look at the BL first, and then to the ACL, as required by the present claim. In other words, while the invention provides the advantage of faster and shorten security clearance (or prohibition), none of the applied references provides the advantage, and in fact, any combination of the references would simply provide redundancies in access restriction and/or prohibition.

The foregoing features of the invention were set forth in independent claim 15, from which claim 17 was previously derived (claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of claim 15). In particular, claim 15 required the access restriction module configured to restrict access to each information resource stored in a storage device and listed on the access control list of the access controller that records the access right to each information resource, and the access interception module configured to restrict the access by reference to an access prohibition list of the access controller, which records user information of access prohibited users, prior to the access control list. In addition, claim 17 requires that the distribution module of each access controller send out the user information or the updated prohibition list to a predetermined other one of the access controllers, thereby transmitting the user information or the updated prohibition list from one access controller to another. During the telephone interview, the Applicants argued that this chaining of transmitting user information or an updated prohibition list from one access controller to another is not taught by Wiik, which at most suggests a broadcast update of a BL. The Examiner indicated that he would reconsider this rejection in light of the arguments upon the filing of a Reply.

Accordingly, the Applicants earnestly request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 17, there be no teaching in any of Ho, Kavalam, or Wiik to distribute the user information or updated prohibition list to the access controllers as claimed in claim 17 (i.e., from one access controller to another). Wiik's broadcast of updated prohibition information is seen to be transmitted to plural controllers but not from one controller to another.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. MEI-101).

Respectfully submitted,

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